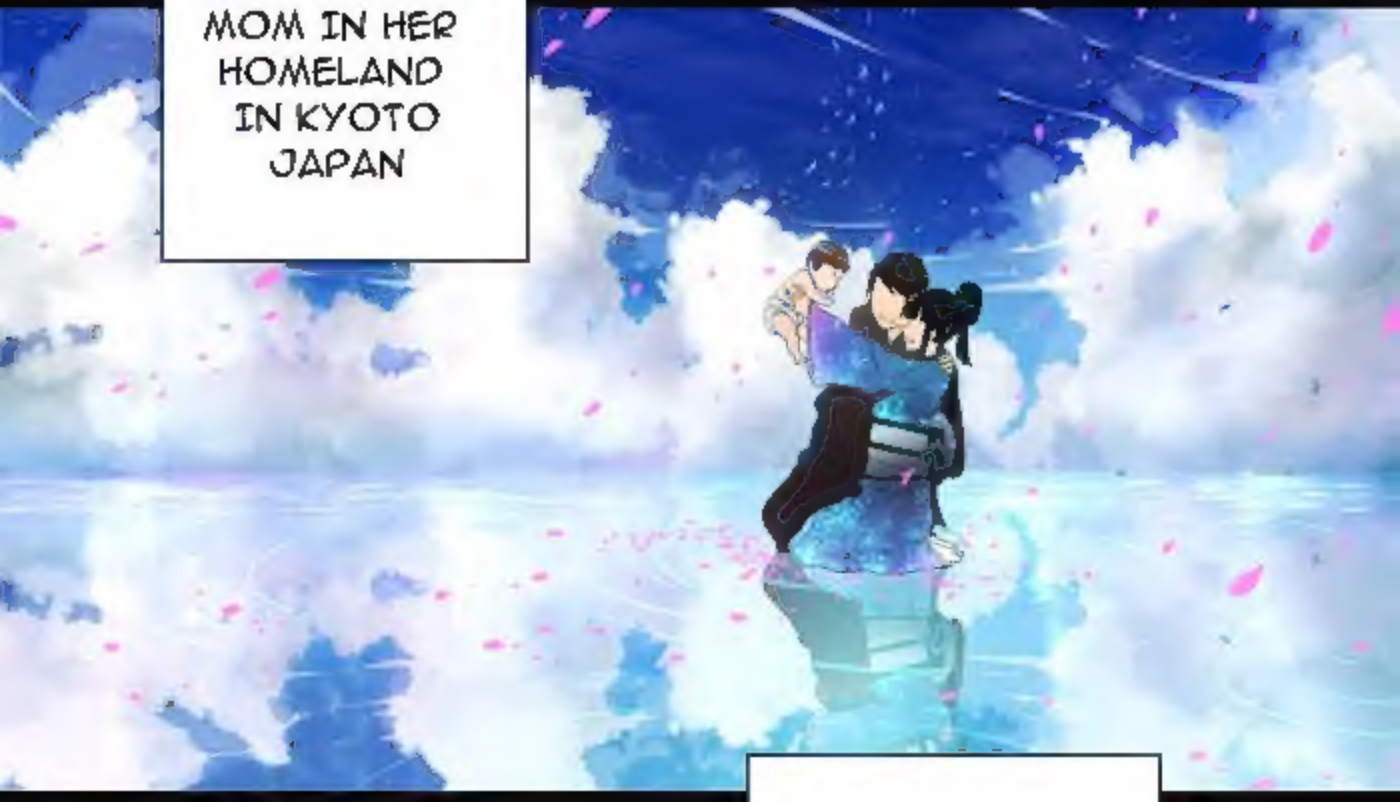
AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE IN EUROPE, DAD AGREED TO LIVE WITH MOM IN HER HOMELAND IN KYOTO JAPAN



I TOOK MY MOM'S SURNAME NAME RATHER THAN MY DAD'S

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM BUT SOMETIMES I CAN SENSE MOM GIVING DAD A COLD SHOULDER.

MAYBE BECAUSE MOM'S SO METICULOUS ON THINGS? SUCH AS GENDER EQUALITY OR WHATEVER IT IS

DAD MOVED TO TOKYO TO MANAGE OUR FAMILY BUSINESS SO I WAS LEFT IN MY MOM'S CARE.

I DO VISIT DAD EVERY WEEKENDS THOUGH.

EVER SINCE I WAS FOUR, MOM DIVERTED MY ATTENTION FROM ANY TENNIS-RELATED STUFFS BY FEEDING ME BOOKS EVERY SINGLE DAY.

..BUT
AS MY MIND
GROWS, MY
DESIRE TO
KNOW ABOUT
TENNIS JUST
GOT STRONGER
AND STRONGER

..ONE TIME
I TOLD HER
THAT WHEN
I GROW UP,
I WANT TO
BE A PRO-
FESSIONAL
PLAYER LIKE
THEM

MOM ONLY GAVE ME A FAKE SMILE..

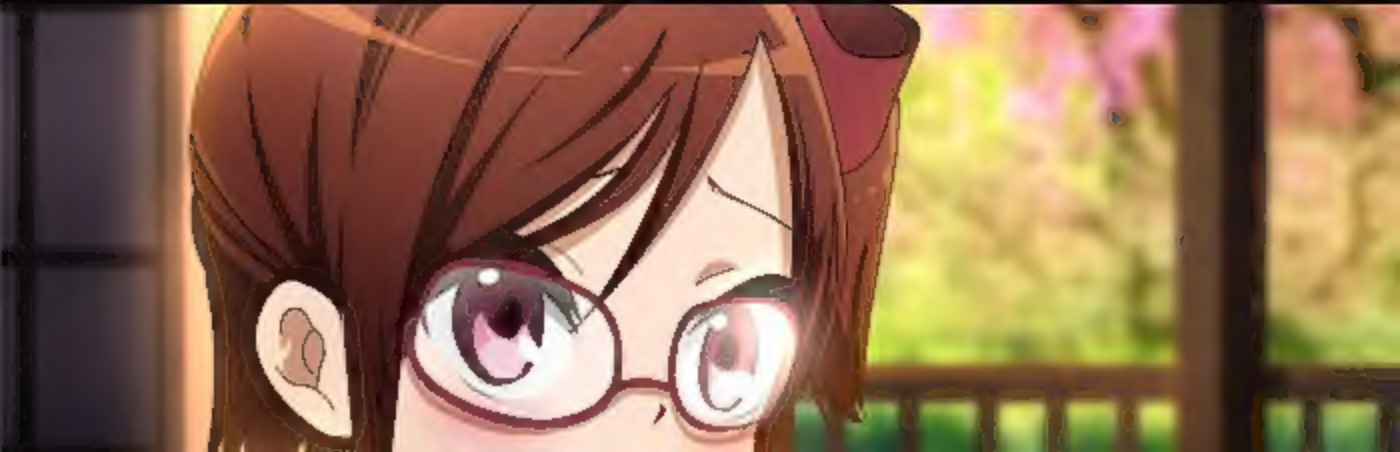
THERE'S SOMETHING SHE DOESN'T WANT ME KNOW..

ECSTASY:hearts

EPISODE 1:

Secret

SHIMIZU-GREENE HOUSEHOLD



NAME: SHIMIZU, ANYA
AGE: 8
NAME: SHIMIZU, AYANE
AGE: 28

MOM?
CAN I VISIT
DAD TODAY.
I NEED TO BORROW
THE NEXT BOOK
OF THIS ONE.
HONEY,,
DIDN'T WE AGREE
THAT YOU ONLY
GET TO VISIT
HIM ON
WEEKENDS?
DADDY
MIGHT BE VERY
BUSY SINCE
IT'S FRIDAY
TODAY

BUT MOM!!
I HAFTA BORROW
THE NEXT BOOK!
I NEED TO
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENS
NEXT!
WELL,
IN THAT
CASE, MOM WILL
TELL YOU THE
REST OF THE
STO--
MOOOOM!!!

FINE, BUT REMEMBER..
DON'T DISTURB DAD, BEHAVE AND ALWAYS BE A GOOD GIRL
..AND WHAT'S THE MAGIC WORD?

"PLEASE!"

GOOD..
HONEY, IS THAT A ROMANCE NOVEL? THAT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU.
DAD TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU. YOU SHOULD READ THIS MOM. IT HAS A VE--
WHATEVER, YOU HAVE TO GO NOW. LOOK AT THE TIME.
...

'COZ I MENTIONED DAD, SHE CHANGED TOPIC.
SHE'S TOO OBVIOUS!
HONEY? WHAT'S UP WITH THAT FACE?
DO YOU WANT ME TO HIDE YOUR STUFF TOYS?

NAAAA!
HA-HA, THERE, THERE..
GO READY YOURSELF. I'M GONNA' CALL YOUR UNCLE BUNNY TO ESCORT YOU, 'KAY?

SORRY MOM.
BUT TODAY,
ANYA'S GONNA'
REVEAL YOUR
SECRET!
HIHI

SAY, UNCLE BUNNY.. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY PARENTS' PAST?
WHY DO YOU ASK DARLING?

I TOLD MOM I WANT TO BE LIKE HER WHEN I GROW UP, BUT HER MOOD SUDDENLY CHANGED. WHY IS THAT?
I'M NOT CERTAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO HER THESE RECENT YEARS. SHE'S CHANGED. BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW.
NOW, LOOK AT THAT BRIDGE OVER THERE. CAN YOU SEE IT?
THE BRIDGE OF PROMISE? WHAT ABOUT IT?

COUPLES BELIEVE THAT IF YOU CONFESS HERE AND MAKE A PROMISE..
YOU'LL BE BLESSED WITH A HAPPY FAMILY BUT YOUR DAD.. CONFESSED SOMETHING TERRIBLE.
WHAT DID HE CONFESS?
I DON'T KNOW EITHER. BUT AFTER THAT, YOUR MOM HAS CHANGED.
I THINK PART OF IT WAS NOT TO TEACH YOU TENNIS.

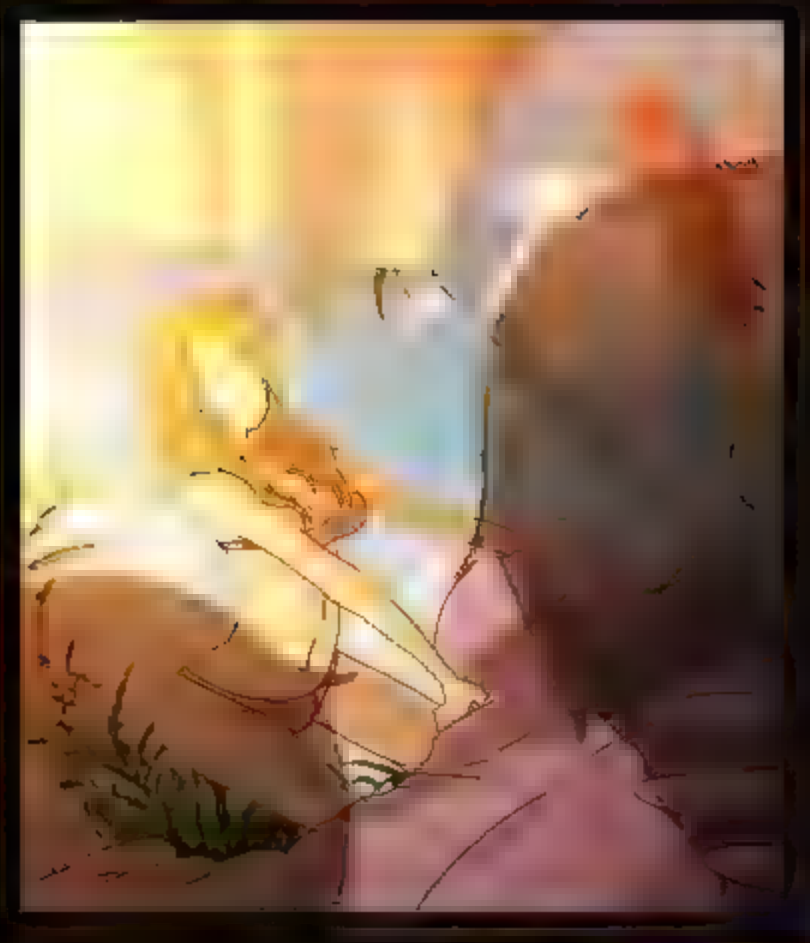
..I DID SAW YOUR DAD TEACHING A CUTE LITTLE BOY THOUGH. AHA-HA-HA!
JEALOUS
OH! LET'S KEEP THIS CONVERSA-TION TO OURSELVES, OKAY?

THOSE TWO OWE ME A LOT OF EXPLAINATION IN THE FIRST PLACE!

ACHOOOOO!

STARBOOKS LIBRARY, TOKYO
BRARY
YES I GOT THE BOOK THEY'RE CLOSING EARLY TODAY THOUGH.
THAT'S CREEPY
IKR!

READING AREA 4
Observe Silence



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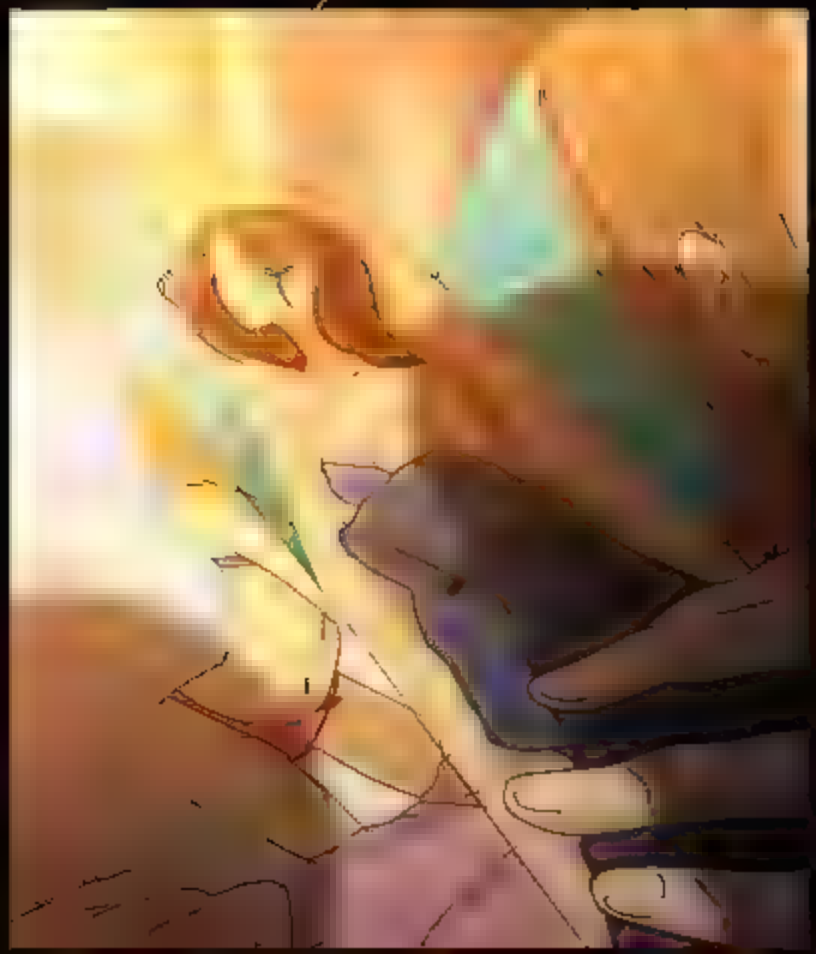


SENSEI LOOK, SHE RESEMBLES YOUR WIFE DOESN'T SHE?
DRIP..
HUH?

AHHHHHH!!!
WATCH IT!
YOU'RE
RUINING MY
COLLECTION!
GHEHEHE..

NAME: GREENE, NATHAN
AGE: 34

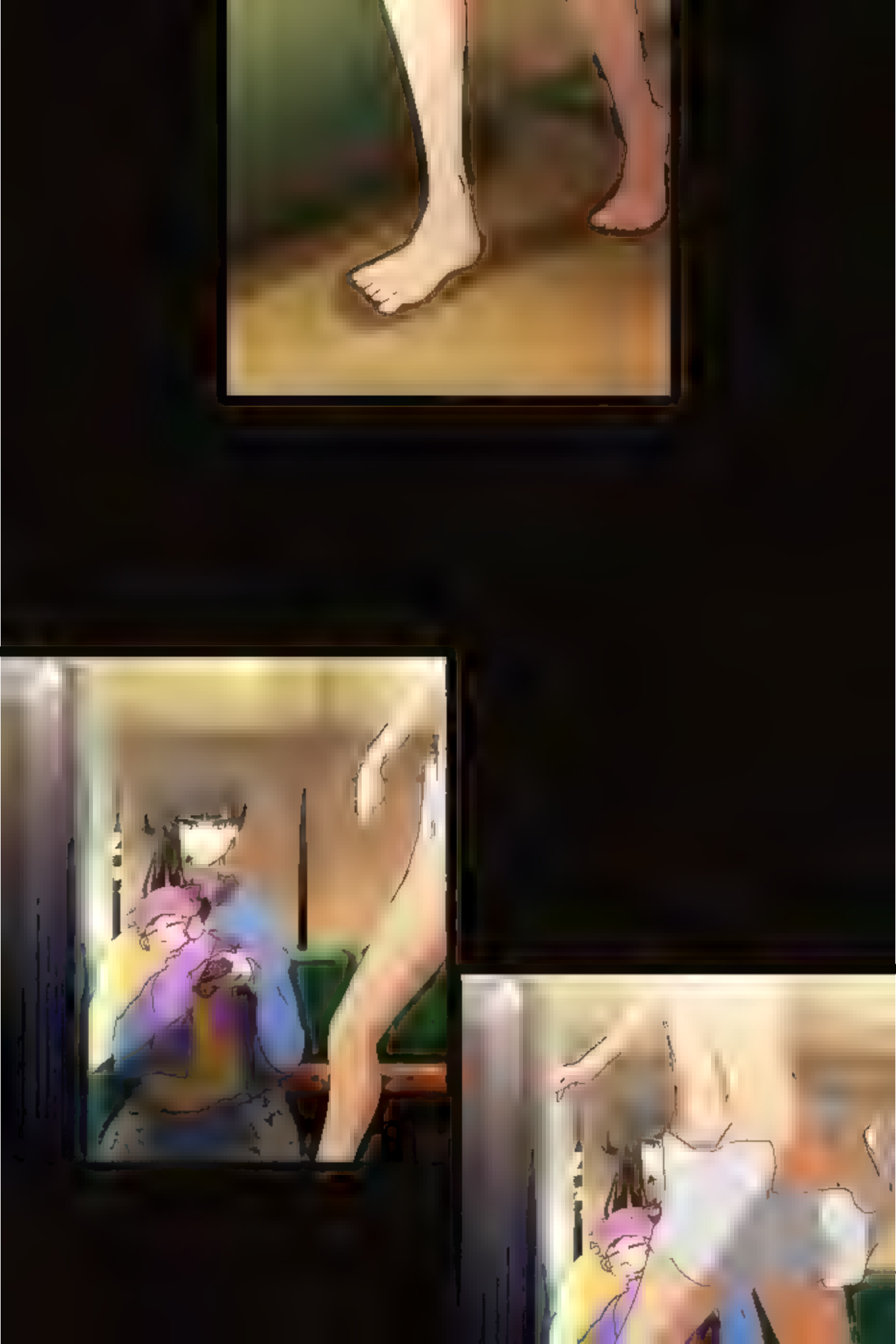
NAME: KOIZUMI, AXEL
AGE: 9

2 WEEKS AGO..
I ALREADY TRIED MANY TIMES..
HOLYSH-!
N-NO. NOTHING.

"I ALREADY TRIED THE ROMANTIC WAY BEFORE"

Where are we going?
The big b ue house!
Where are we going??
The big blue house!
Where are we going!?
THE BIG B..UE HOUSE
HONEY..
YOU'RE TURN NOW.. WANT ME TO WASH YOUR BACK FOR

YOU?
[Ignore...]



GHE-HE-HE

ドドド
OHMYG--!!

H-H-HONEY..
RE-RELAX..
T-THAT WASN'T
ON PURPOSE..
I..I..I JU--

SEEMS LIKE HEAVEN HAS ABANDONED YOU, SENSEI.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUB IT ON MY FACE
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER ANYWAY?
YOU MUST'VE DONE SOMETHING TERRIBLE FOR HER TO TREAT YOU LIKE THAT.

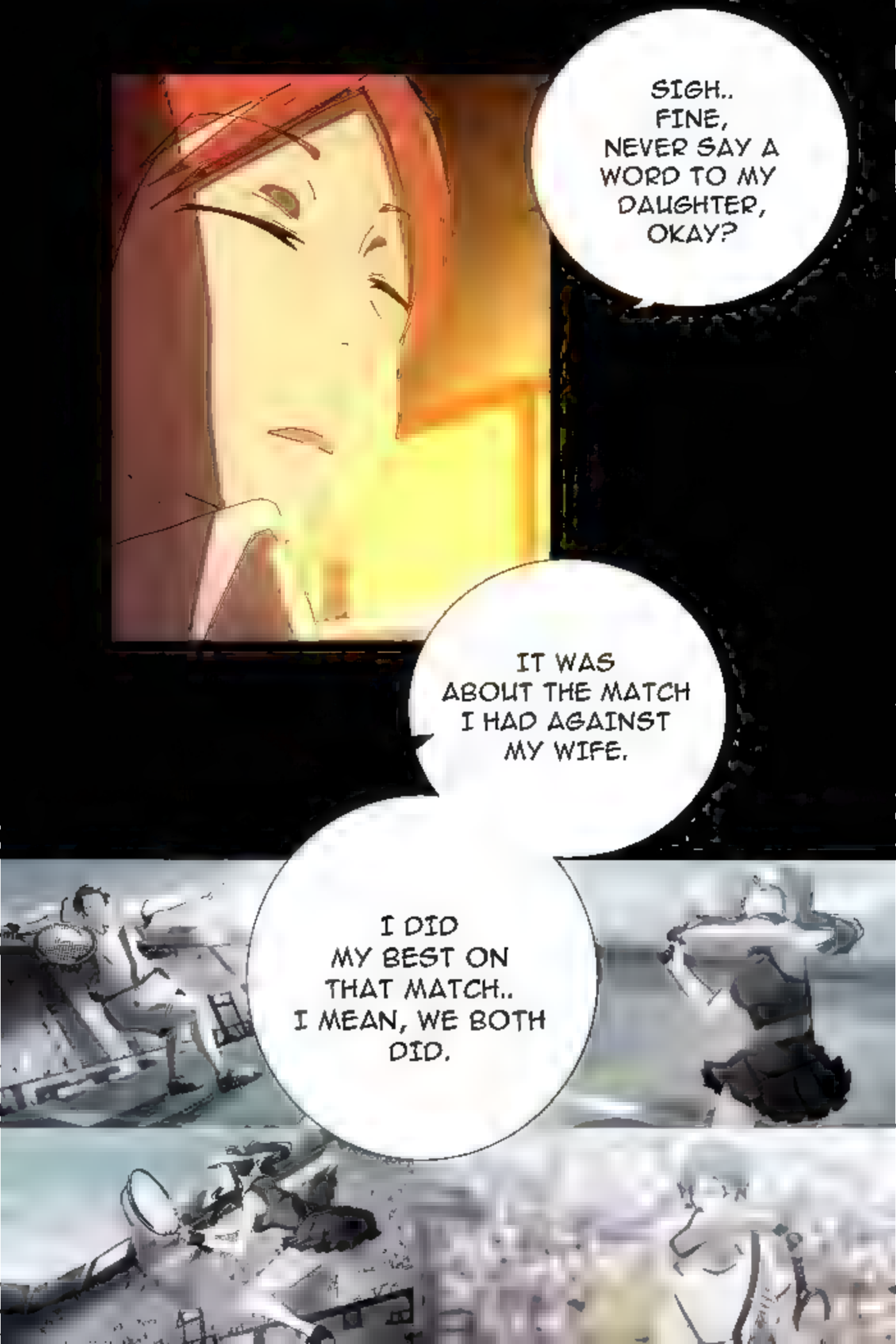
HMM...
I DON'T KNOW.
WE WERE A LOT
BETTER BEFORE,
Y'KNOW.

UHH..
CHEATING?

SHUT UP
AXEL.
I'D NEVER
DREAM OF
DOING THAT TO
MY WIFE.

WAIT, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, SHE DID CHANGE AFTER I TOLD HER MY SECRET, BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
HOLD IT! SECRET!? OH I LOVE SECRETS!
THAT'S A SECRET BETWEEN US. I JUST CAN'T TELL YOU

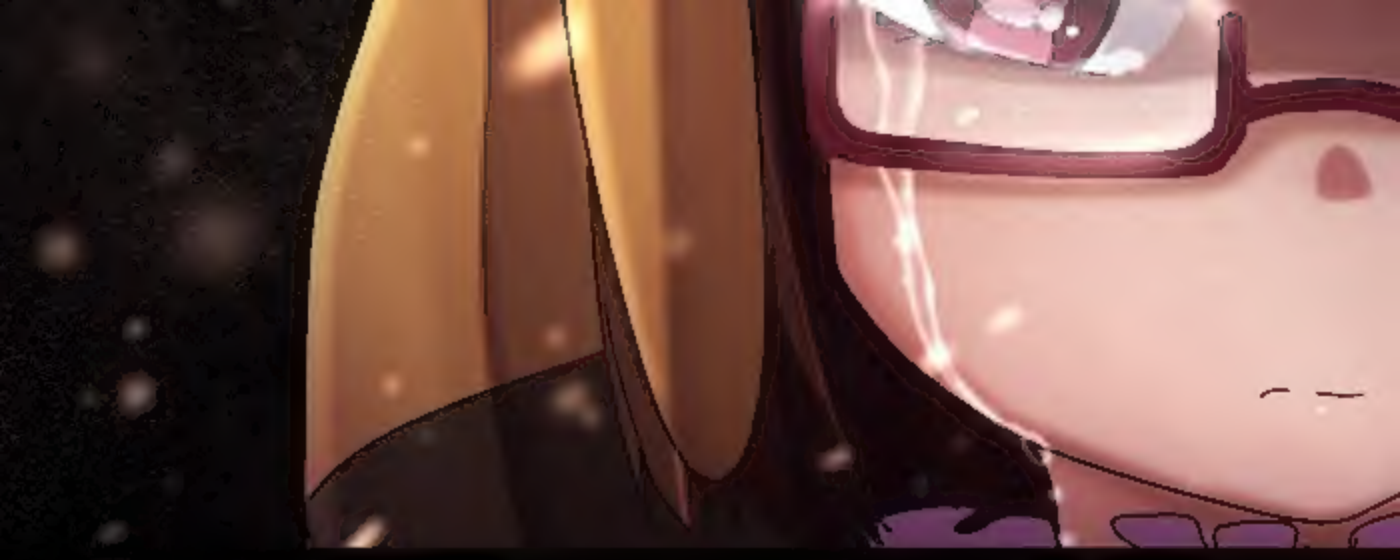
THAT.
C'MON! YOU KNOW I'M GOOD AT KEEPING SECRETS. AND BESIDES, YOUR LIKE MY DAD SO.. GO ON, DON'T BE SHY!
YOU SURE LOVE TO STICK YOUR NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG, DON'T YOU?
(NODS..)
..AND WHY WOULD I BE SHY TO A CHEEKY PIPSQUEAK LIKE YOU?


SIGH..
FINE,
NEVER SAY A
WORD TO MY
DAUGHTER,
OKAY?
IT WAS
ABOUT THE MATCH
I HAD AGAINST
MY WIFE.
I DID
MY BEST ON
THAT MATCH..
I MEAN, WE BOTH
DID.

THAT WIN CHANGED HER LIFE. SHE QUIT TENNIS BECAUSE SHE HAS NOTHING TO PROVE ANYMORE AND SHE WANTS TO FOCUS ON OUR RELATION-SHIP
BUT..
I TOLD HER THE TRUTH AFTER OUR MARRIAGE..

THAT I...
PURPOSELY LET HER WIN THE MATCH.

SERIOUSLY!? THAT REALLY HURTS! WELL, THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D LOSE TO A GIRL ANYWAY! I KNEW IT!
I SHOULD'VE JUST KEPT THAT SECRET TO MYSELF
"DAD.."



"..YOU'RE THE WORST!"

Episode Secret End